

Remarks

The present claims are claims 1-4 and 6-14. The present amendments find support from the figures and accompanying description.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Baske et al. (WO 03/016855) in view of Fitzpatrick (US 5,786,898). Specifically, the rejection referenced the inspection cell shown in Figure 3 of Baske et al., where: optical lens 42 was considered to correspond to a block of optically transparent material; test trough 34 was considered to correspond to a bowl; and outer opening 36 (and presumably insertion channel 35) were considered to correspond to a spillway integrated with the bowl.

As amended, the present claims further clarify that the bowl and integrated spillway are formed in an exterior surface of the optically transparent block. In contrast, the cell of Baske et al. Figure 3 has a hollow space 31, filled with a liquid, and Applicant respectfully submits this cell does not have the bowl and integrated spillway.

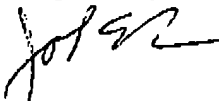
Stated differently, to the extent optical lens 42 is considered the optically transparent block, there is no spillway, integrated with a bowl, formed in an exterior surface thereof. To the extent the overall cell of Baske et al. is considered the optically transparent block, there is no bowl and integrated spillway formed in an exterior surface thereof.

Fitzpatrick does not cure the deficiencies of Baske et al., further noting Fitzpatrick was relied on in the rejection for disclosing a block held via a pivot point.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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